



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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DLNR ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY “DEEP 7” BOTTOMFISH SEASON CLOSURE IN MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLAND STATE MARINE WATERS

HONOLULU – The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) announces a fishing season closure for Deep 7 bottomfish species in State marine waters, effective July 6 through August 31, 2009.

During the closed season, all fishing for Deep 7 bottomfish species is prohibited in State marine waters surrounding the main Hawaiian islands. Commercial and non-commercial Deep 7 fishing will close July 6, 2009. “Deep 7” bottomfish species include onaga, opakapaka, ehu, kalekale, gindai, lehi and hapu‘upu‘u.

The closure begins on the date when the current total allowable catch of 241,000 pounds is estimated to be harvested by the fishery. The State closure complements a federal Deep 7 fishing closure, which also becomes effective on July 6, 2009.

The Deep 7 and other bottomfish are managed cooperatively by the state and federal governments. Maps of the closed State marine waters, both seasonal Deep 7 closure and bottomfish restricted fishing areas, are available on the DLNR website <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/regs/ch94rev3.pdf> For additional information call the Division of Aquatic Resources office nearest you.

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